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**Contacts:** **Whei Wong**, Director of Communications

Phone: 303.387.0030 | [whei.wong@dcsdk12.org](mailto:whei.wong@dcsdk12.org)

**Steven Shapiro**, Communications Strategy Group (HOPE Online)

Phone: 303.886.6342 | [sshapiro@commstratgroup.com](mailto:sshapiro@commstratgroup.com)

### **DCSD to help HOPE Online Learning Academy implement additional oversight and accountability measures**

Douglas County School District (DCSD) is entering into an agreement to work with HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op as an independent contractor, providing evaluation, oversight and expert advice on issues regarding compliance. DCSD's Board of Education has given approval for the district to enter into this service contract. HOPE Online will hire DCSD as a consultant in the "development, documentation and implementation of accreditation review standards" and accountability measures for its 78 Learning Centers.

Douglas County School District staff will consult on that process, making site visits, interviewing administrators and current staff members, and evaluating infrastructure of HOPE Online and its Learning Centers. The goal of the agreement is for DCSD to provide feedback in the areas of accountability and oversight, and compliance with state rules and regulations.

"Every child has a right to a great public education – every child, no matter what their circumstance. HOPE Online serves the important at-risk student population," says DCSD Superintendent Jim Christensen. He adds, "If our district's insight and feedback can help them improve processes and help its students meet standards, we welcome the opportunity."

Heather O'Mara, CEO and Executive Director of HOPE Online says, "DCSD is known for the quality of its management, openness to innovation and academic excellence. In only our second year of operation, and because of our unique and innovative model, Hope Online will clearly benefit from DCSD's experience and knowledge."

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